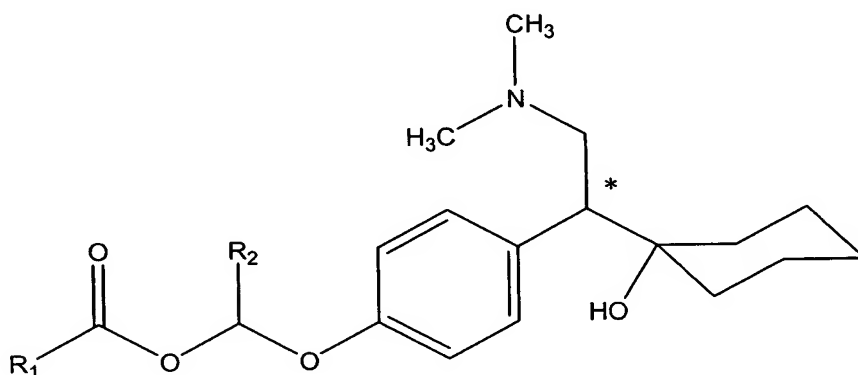


ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

This invention provides O- α -acyloxyalkyl ethers of the venlafaxine metabolite 4-[2-(Dimethylamino-1-(1-hydroxycyclohexyl)ethyl] phenol, represented by Formula

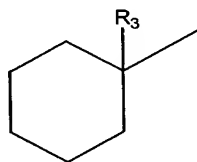
5 (I):



wherein:

the configuration at the stereogenic center (*) may be R, S, or RS (the racemate);

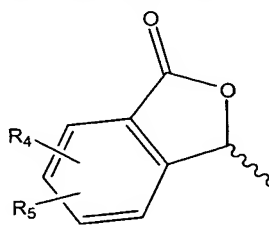
10 R_1 is selected from $C_1 - C_6$ alkyl, $C_1 - C_6$ alkoxy, $C_3 - C_6$ cycloalkyl, or the moiety:



(a);

R_2 is selected from H, or $C_1 - C_6$ alkyl; or,

R_1 and R_2 may be concatenated such that $R_1-C(=O)-O-CH(R_2)-$, form a



moiety having formula (b): (b);

15

R_3 is selected from H or $C_1 - C_6$ alkyl; and

R4 and R5 are independently selected from H, C₁ – C₆ alkyl, C₃-C₆ cycloalkyl, C₁ – C₆ alkoxy, C₁ – C₆ thioalkoxy, -CN, -OH, -CF₃, -OCF₃, halogen, -NH₂, -NO₂, or mono or dialkylamino wherein each alkyl group has 1 to 6 carbon atoms, or pharmaceutically acceptable salts or hydrates thereof, R, S, or RS forms thereof; as
 5 well as pharmaceutical compositions and methods treating central nervous system disorders.